

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1216

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN
SUBJECT: YOUNG/KIKHIA CONVERSATION, APRIL 21

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR YOUNG MET WITH LIBYAN PERMANENT
REP KIKHIA ON APRIL 21. DURING GENERAL CONVERSATION ISSUES
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST AND U.S./LIBYAN BILATERAL REL-
ATIONS WERE DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR YOUNG MADE COURTESY CALL ON LIBYAN AMBASSADOR
KIKHIA ON APRIL 21. YOUNG OPENED DISCUSSION BY REMARKING
ON HIS HOPE THAT THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF ECONOMIC PRESSURE
ON SOUTH AFRICA, THE LATTER WOULD MAKE ESSENTIAL CHANGES IN
NAMIBIA AND DO WHATEVER THEY COULD WITH IAN SMITH. YOUNG SAID
IN GETTING THE WESTERN POWERS TO PURSUE ECONOMIC PRESSURES ON
SOUTH AFRICA IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE AFRICAN GROUP AND THE
NONALIGNED DID NOT PRESS THEIR RESOLUTIONS, OVER WHICH
THE VETO SHADOW WOULD BE CAST. THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE IN-
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TEREST IN THE DECLARATION ALTHOUGH THAT HAS CERTAIN PROBLEMS.

3. YOUNG NOTED THAT IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO HAVE THE FIVE
WESTERN POWERS ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL WORKING TOGETHER ON
THIS. THE SURROUNDING PUBLICITY WOULD SIGNAL THAT THE
U.S. IS SQUARELY IN SUPPORT OF MAJORITY RULE. THIS WILL
BE USEFUL ALSO IN GARNERING AMERICAN PUBLIC SUPPORT. YOUNG

ADDED THAT HE HOPED THE COUNCIL WOULD ADOPT THE DECLARATION BY CONSENSUS. THE U.S. WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING LIBYA CAN DO TO FURTHER THIS EFFORT.

4. AMBASSADOR KIKHIA SAID THE AFRICAN GROUP WANTED TO AVOID EMBARRASSING THE U.S. AND U.K. BY PROMOTING RESOLUTIONS WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE TO VETO. THE DECLARATION PROPOSAL PROMPTED A LIVELY DISCUSSION IN THE AFRICAN GROUP. THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS DO NOT FAVOR THE DECLARATION; AND GIVEN PAST EXPERIENCE WITH SOUTH AFRICA THERE IS A PERCEPTION THAT A DECLARATION WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE. KIKHIA SAID THE AFRICANS WOULD NOW WAIT OUTCOME OF THE DEMARCHES BY THE WESTERN POWERS. THE AFRICAN GROUP IS HESITANT NOW ON HOW TO PROCEED; IF THE WESTERN POWERS DID NOT PURSUE THE DECLARATION THIS WOULD RELIEVE DIVISIVE TENDENCY WITHIN THE AFRICAN GROUP. KIKHIA REMARKED THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS JUST WITNESSED A "TRAGIC EXPERIENCE" WITH THE BENIN ISSUE WHEN THE AFRICANS TURNED ON EACH OTHER. LIBYA NOW WANTS THE AFRICAN GROUP TO TAKE A DEFINITIVE POSITION ON WHETHER TO SUPPORT A DECLARATION OR A CONSENSUS STATEMENT. (KIKHIA IS PERHAPS REFERRING TO A NEW OUTCOME FOR THIS DEBATE, ADDING A CONSENSUS STATEMENT TO EXISTING PROPOSALS: DECLARATION, SUSPENSION UNTIL JUNE, AND RESOLUTIONS. KIKHIA'S PRECISE MEANING, HOWEVER, NEEDS CLARIFYING.) YOUNG RESPONDED THAT SHOULD SOUTH AFRICA RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE WESTERN POWERS THEN THE NEED FOR A DECLARATION WOULD OF COURSE SUBSIDE.

5. AMBASSADOR KIKHIA THEN DESCRIBED AS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESENTATION OF ISSUES BY HIGH OFFICIALS TO THE MAN IN THE STREET. IN THE PAST FOREIGN POLICY SEEMED THE PRESERVE OF INTEREST GROUPS NOW IT IS WITHIN THE REACH OF THE AVERAGE AMERICAN.

6. TURNING TO THE MIDDLE EAST, YOUNG COMMENTED THAT A MAJOR ISSUE FOR THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS THE DISPOSITION OF THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION QUESTION. THE U.S. POSITION IS TO TRY TO HAVE THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED WORK OUT THE ISSUE. YOUNG SAID THAT WITH REGARD TO AFRICAN, MIDDLE EAST OR OTHER ISSUES HE DOES NOT VIEW FAVORABLY A SPLIT IN THE AFRO-ARAB GROUP. HE WANTS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE ARAB PERMANENT REPS AS WELL AS WITH THE AFRICANS. KIKHIA SAID THE ONLY DIVISION AMONG AFRICANS AND ARABS IS IN THE MINDS OF THE ZIONISTS WHO TRY TO EXPLOIT AFRO-ARAB RELATIONS.

7. RETURNING TO THE MIDDLE EAST, KIKHIA COMMENTED THAT FOR LIBYA THE MAIN ISSUE IS TO ASSIST THE PALESTINIS ACHIEVE THEIR JUST OBJECTIVES. KIKHIA THEN QUERIED HOW

THE U.S. CAN PLAY A ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHEN IT DOESN'T
RECOGNIZE ONE OF THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE. KIKHIA OPINED
THAT U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE ZIONISTS WILL CHANGE IN TIME.

8. MOVING ON TO US/LIBYAN BILATERAL RELATIONS, KIKHIA
REVIEWED BRIEFLY THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEM AREAS--THE
C-130'S, UPGRADING TO AMBASSADORIAL RANK THE EMBASSIES OF
BOTH COUNTRIES, AND THE SUPPLY PROBLEMS FOR THE LIBYAN AIR
FORCE F-5'S AFTER THE LIBYAN REVOLUTION. "WE WANT TO BUY
NOW FROM THE U.S., BUT YOU REFUSE TO SELL TO US." MEAN-
WHILE DESPITE LIBYA'S DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS. LIBYA IS
ACCUSED IN THE AMERICAN PRESS OF SUPPORTING TERRORISM AND
IN FACT ONE RADIO STATION IN NEW YORK CITY CONCLUDES ITS
DAILY BROADCAST BY SAYING "GET GADDAFI". KIKHIA ADDED
THAT MOREOVER HE CAN IMAGINE THAT THERE IS PRESSURE EVEN
FROM THE "ARAB BROTHERS" TO GENERATE PROPAGANDA IN THE
U.S. AGAINST LIBYA, SAYING THAT LIBYA IS A SOVIET SPEARHEAD.
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9. AS FOREIGN MINISTER OF LIBYA FOR 11 MONTHS, KIKHIA
RECALLED THAT HE URGED DURING THAT PERIOD IMPROVED RELA-
TIONS WITH THE USSR. NOW LIBYA SEEKS BETTER RELATIONS
WITH THE US. KIKHIA ASKED WHETHER THE USG COULD HELP COM-
BAT THE ANTI-LIBYAN PROPAGANDA IN THE US NEWS MEDIA. HE
CONCLUDED THAT ALTHOUGH FROM "PRACTICAL" VIEWPOINT LIBYA
DOES NOT NEED THE US, IT DOES SEEK BETTER RELATIONS.
YOUNG ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE
LIBYA AND US GOVERNMENTS IN SEVERAL AREAS, BUT THAT HE
HOPED KIKHIA WOULD FEEL FREE TO CONSULT WITH HIM AT ANY TIME.
KIKHIA THEN REFERRED TO RECENT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ARTICLE
LINKING TERRORISM TO LIBYA AND TO SENATOR JAVITS REMARKS
IN A SYMPOSIUM IN NEW YORK LAST MONTH DESCRIBING LIBYA'S
ROLE IN SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. CONVERSATION
ENDED WITH BOTH AMBASSADORS AGREEING TO IMPORTANCE OF
STAYING IN TOUCH.
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